



Southern California Association of Governments 900 Wilshire Boulevard, Suite 1700, Los Angeles, California 90017 February 6, 2020

# TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE MINUTES OF THE MEETING THURSDAY, OCTOBER 3, 2019

THE FOLLOWING MINUTES ARE A SUMMARY OF ACTIONS TAKEN BY THE TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE. A DIGITAL RECORDING OF THE ACTUAL MEETING IS AVAILABLE FOR LISTENING IN SCAG'S OFFICE.

The Transportation Committee (TC) met at SCAG, 900 Wilshire Blvd., 17<sup>th</sup> Floor, Los Angeles, CA 90017. The meeting was called to order by Chair Hon. Cheryl Viegas-Walker, El Centro. A quorum was present.

## **Members Present:**

Hon.	Sean Ashton, Downey	District 25
Hon.	Rusty Bailey, Riverside	District 68
Hon.	Ben Benoit, Wildomar	South Coast AQMD
Hon.	Will Berg, Port Hueneme	VCOG
Hon.	Drew Boyles	El Segundo
Hon.	Joe Buscaino, Los Angeles	District 62
Hon.	Ross Chun, Aliso Viejo	OCTA
Hon.	John Dutrey, Montclair	SBCTA
Hon.	James Gazeley, Lomita	District 39
Hon.	Jan Harnik, Palm Desert	RCTC
Hon.	Steven Hofbauer, Palmdale	District 43
Hon.	Linda Krupa, Hemet	WRCOG
Hon.	Clint Lorimore, Eastvale	District 4
Hon.	Steve Manos, Lake Elsinore	District 63
Hon.	Ray Marquez, Chino Hills	District 10
Hon.	Larry McCallon, Highland	SBCTA
Hon.	Brian McDonald	Tribal Government Board
Hon.	Marsha McLean, Santa Clarita	District 67
Hon.	Dan Medina, Gardena	District 28
Hon.	L. Dennis Michael	District 9
Hon.	Lisa Middleton, Palm Springs	CVAG
Hon.	Fred Minagar, Laguna Niguel	District 12
Hon.	Carol Moore, Laguna Woods	OCCOG
Hon.	Cory Moss	SGVCOG

**OUR MISSION** 

**OUR VISION** 

Southern California's Catalyst for a Brighter Future

**OUR CORE VALUES** 

Be Open | Lead by Example | Make an Impact | Be Courageous





Hon. Frank Navarro, Colton District 6
Hon. Hector, Pacheco San Fernando
Hon. Charles Puckett, Tustin District 17
Hon. Ed Reece SGVCOG

Hon. Carlos Rodriguez, Yorba Linda President's Appointment

Hon.Ali Saleh, BellGCCOGHon.Rey Santos, BeaumontDistrict 3Hon.Zak Schwank, TemeculaDistrict 5Hon.Marty Simonoff, BreaDistrict 22Hon.Jeremy SmithCanyon LakeHon.Larry SmithCalimesa

Hon. Karen Spiegel Riverside County

Hon. Jess Talamantes (Vice Chair)
 Hon. Brent Tercero, Pico Rivera
 Hon. Steve Tye
 Hon. Cheryl Viegas-Walker, El Centro (Chair)
 Hon. Alan Wapner, Ontario
 Mr. Paul Marquez, Caltrans District 7
 SFVCOG
 District 37
 District 1
 SBCTA/SBCOG
 Ex-Officio Member

# **Members Not Present:**

Hon. Thomas Small, Culver City

Hon. Kathryn Barger Los Angeles County
Hon. Austin Bishop, Palmdale North L.A. County
Hon. Art Brown, Buena Park District 21
Hon. Jonathan Curtis, La Cañada-Flintridge District 36

Hon. Diane Dixon, Newport Beach
Hon. Emily Gabel-Luddy
Hon. Jack Hadjinian

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Hon. Curt Hagman San Bernardino County

Culver City

Hon. Ray Hamada Bellflower **OCCOG** Hon. Dave Harrington, Aliso Viejo Hon. Jose Huizar, Los Angeles District 61 Hon. Mike T. Judge, Simi Valley VCTC Hon. Trish Kelley, Mission Viejo OCCOG Hon. Paul Krekorian District 49 Hon. Ara Najarian, Glendale **AVCJPA** Hon. Teresa Real Sebastian, Monterey Park **SGVCOG** Hon. Dwight Robinson, Lake Forest OCCOG Hon. Crystal Ruiz, San Jacinto **WRCOG** Hon. Tim Sandoval, Pomona District 38



Hon. Cynthia Sternquist, Temple City SGVCOG

Hon. Don Wagner Orange County

Hon. Alicia Weintraub, Calabasas LVMCOG

#### **CALL TO ORDER & PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

Hon. Cheryl Viegas-Walker, Imperial County Transportation Commission, called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m. Hon. Marsha McLean, Santa Clarita, led the Pledge of Allegiance.

#### **PUBLIC COMMENT**

No members of the public requested to comment.

#### **CONSENT CALENDAR**

- 1. Minutes of the Meeting September 5, 2019
- 2. Resolution No. 19-615-1 Regarding Acceptance of Office of Traffic Safety Grant Funds to support the Active Transportation Safety and Encouragement Campaign

# **Receive and File**

- 3. 2020 Connect SoCal Financial Plan Updates
- 4. Connect SoCal Transit/Rail Element
- 5. Connect SoCal Highways and Arterials Report
- 6. Connect SoCal Goods Movement Element
- 7. Transportation Safety Element in Connect SoCal
- 8. Connect SoCal Environmental Justice Report
- 9. Walktober and International Walk to School Month

A MOTION was made (Pucket) and SECONDED (Ashton) to approve Consent Calendar items 1-9. The Motion passed by the following votes:

AYES: Ashton, Bailey, Benoit, Berg, Buscaino, Chun, Gazeley, Harnik, Hofbauer, Krupa,

Lorimore, McCallon, McLean, McDonald, Michael, Middleton, Moore, Navarro, Puckett, Reece, Rodriguez, Sandoval, Santos, Simonoff, Smith, Talamantes, Tercero, Tye, Viegas-

Walker, Wapner (30)

NOES: None (0)

ABSTAIN: Schwank, Smith (2)

### **INFORMATION/ACTION ITEMS**



#### 10. Connect SoCal Update

Naresh Amatya, SCAG staff, presented an overview of Connect SoCal and potential issues. Mr. Amatya reviewed the new Safer, Affordable, Fuel-Efficient Rule (SAFE Rule) and its potential effects and implications for Connect SoCal. He stated staff will present updates and overviews on the central transportation elements of the plan.

Annie Nam, SCAG staff, reviewed the financial elements of Connect SoCal. Ms. Nam stated that a requirement of the financial element is that expenses match revenue over the life of the plan. She noted that since the 2016 Regional Transportation Plan/Sustainable Communities Strategy, voters in Los Angeles County approved Measure M which is a permanent local sales tax measure. Further, she noted that funding measures in other counties will expire during the 25-year life of Connect SoCal including Measure A in Riverside County and Measure M in Orange County. Ms. Nam noted that sales tax revenue and inflation can affect purchasing power. She stated the core revenue of Connect SoCal is \$499.3 over the life of the plan, of which 61% is generated from local sources, 31% from state and 8% from federal sources. Ms. Nam next reviewed new revenue sources including an adjustment to the federal gas tax, a mileage based user fee and local road charge program.

Hon. Jan Harnik, Palm Desert, asked when the federal gas tax was last increased and noted that there have been discussions at national business organizations supporting an increase of the federal gas tax. Ms. Nam responded that the federal gas tax was last increased in 1993.

Hon. Alan Wapner, Ontario, asked if the financial forecast includes a renewal of the counties' self-help tax measures. Ms. Nam responded that the forecast does not include their renewal and is conservative in its estimation of projected revenue.

Philip Law, SCAG staff, provided an update on the Transit and Rail element. Mr. Law stated that transit is an important element which addresses climate change, traffic congestion and provides a needed social service. He noted that there has been a 24% decline in per capita transit ridership from 2007 to 2018. Mr. Law stated a UCLA study found the most plausible cause was an increase in private vehicle ownership particularly among those groups who were traditional transit users. Further, the regional pool of transit users is changing with fewer transit dependent riders and more discretionary riders who have access to a vehicle. He noted that several efforts are underway by regional transit providers to better understand rider needs and improve bus system designs. These include Metro's NextGen Bus Study and OCTA's OC Bus 360 and Transit Master Plan. Additional strategies include enhanced first/last mile services, microtransit as well as partnering with transportation





network companies. He stated mobility as a service is an emerging trend although it operates optimally with a single payment platform which is currently being explored in Metro's TAP system upgrade.

Mr. Law noted that nearly \$120 billion in transit and rail capital projects are outlined in Connect SoCal through 2045 as well as an additional \$200 billion in transit operations and maintenance. Some investments include expansion of Metro rail lines resulting from Measure M funding, Metrolink's Southern California Optimized Rail Expansion (SCORE), new streetcar service in Orange County and Redlands in addition to Bus Rapid Transit and High Quality Transit Corridors. Mr. Law reviewed a new federal requirement that SCAG establish performance targets for transit asset management in coordination with regional transit agencies. He presented draft regional targets for inclusion in Connect SoCal and stated that the targets reflect a desire by the transit agencies to maintain current 2019 conditions through the plan horizon.

Hon. Ross Chun, Aliso Viejo, asked about the OC Flex microtransit pilot and noted that the rollout of the pilot required considerable time to inform and educate the public but it is seen as a valuable and unique service and it is hoped that the service will continue. Mr. Law responded that while the service has not drawn a great deal of ridership it is an important transit coverage service and first/last mile strategy.

Naresh Amatya, SCAG staff, reported on the highways and arterials elements of the plan. Mr. Amatya stated the region contains 73,000 highway lane miles accommodating 63 million average weekday trips. Further, when adding in arterials and local roads the road network nearly doubles. He noted approximately \$38 billion is allocated for highway capital improvements over the 25-year life of the plan and \$116 billion in operation and maintenance. Mr. Amatya noted that critical gaps still exist in the system creating chokepoints that contribute to traffic congestion. Further, due to cost, environmental concerns and political sensitivities, roadway expansion is less viable. So, maintenance and rehabilitation of the existing system becomes all the more important. He noted guiding principles include protecting and preserving the current system while focusing on achieving maximum productivity through strategic investments in Transportation System Management (TSM) and Transportation Demand Management (TDM).

Mr. Amatya stated Connect SoCal provides \$7.3 billion for Transportation Demand Management to reduce single occupancy vehicle trip demand. Additionally, \$13.7 billion is assigned to Transportation System Management (TSM) to increase productivity of the existing system. He noted the highways and arterials elements will continue to emphasize system preservation, continue projects that are underway and identified in the current



RTP/SCS, forward projects that will close system gaps and maximize productivity through transportation management strategies.

Mike Jones, SCAG staff, provided an update on regional Goods Movement. Mr. Jones stated regional goods movement activities drive the regional economy and create jobs through a regional system which includes the Port of Los Angeles which is the largest in the United States, seven commercial airports, an extensive highway network, two Class I railroads, three international border crossings in Imperial County, warehouse and distribution facilities as well as a large consumer market. He noted since 1995 container volume at regional ports have tripled and E-Commerce continues to grow as a portion of total retail sales.

Mr. Jones noted that a continued goal of goods movement is promoting infrastructure that benefits the development and deployment of zero-emission technology. He noted that Connect SoCal invests over \$65 billion in goods movement including clean freight corridors, port access improvements, freight rail capacity, grade separations and truck bottleneck relief projects.

Hon. Alan Wapner, Ontario, asked for a follow up presentation on the development of dedicated truck lanes.

Hina Chanchlani, SCAG staff, provided an update on the transportation safety element of Connect SoCal. Ms. Chanchlani reported that the goal of the transportation safety report is to identify strategies that align with state Strategic Highway Safety Plan goals and allow local jurisdictions to identify projects that support Connect SoCal implementation. She noted yearly there are 1,500 fatalities and 5,200 serious injuries each year from collisions which represent an increasing recent trend. She reviewed strategies for improving safety for aging populations including supporting roadway, intersection and interchange improvements to enhance right of way decisions by older populations and road users. Additionally, to promote implementation of multimodal guidance for aging road users as outlined in the state Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices (MUTCD). Other design improvements include curb extensions, bulb-outs and pedestrian refuge islands that shorten crossing distances.

Ms. Chanchlani reported that speed is the critical factor in the severity of collisions noting that 9 out of 10 pedestrians survive a collision with an automobile traveling at 25 miles per hour but only 2.5 pedestrians survive when hit by a vehicle traveling 50 miles per hour. She reviewed the single year and 5-year rolling regional average safety targets.





Hon. Dan Medina, Gardena, asked about bicycle registration as a way to generate revenue and promote safer street conditions for bicyclists, pedestrians and vehicles. Ms. Chanchlani responded that bicycle registration can be included in the plan as a safety element.

Naresh Amatya, SCAG staff, concluded the presentation by noting that on November 7, 2019 the draft of Connect SoCal will be presented to a joint policy committee meeting for their consideration to release the document for public review. Additionally, once approval is given, public comment will be sought from November 2019 through mid-January 2020 including a series of workshops and public hearings throughout the region. Findings from the public hearings will be reviewed with the policy committees and Regional Council in March 2020.

## **ADJOURNMENT**

Hon. Cheryl Viegas-Walker, El Centro, adjourned the meeting at 12:01 p.m.

[MINUTES ARE UNOFFICIAL UNTIL APPROVED BY THE TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE]

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